

November 9, 2020

Commissioner Thurlow, Commissioner Carlson, and Commissioner Mayo were present at a regular meeting beginning at 8:00 a.m. The minutes were approved as printed. Account payables in the amount of \$584.86 were reviewed and approved by the Board.

Austin Gillard, CCMC CEO, met with the Board to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Gillard stated that the COVID pandemic is becoming a serious issue here in Clay County with all of the new positive tests. Currently there are two Doctors in isolation and two Doctors in modified quarantine, plus 13 members of staff have been quarantined. Hospitals in Kansas are full and not taking patients. Friday night they had to fly a patient out of state to a hospital. Over the weekend, around 40% of the COVID tests were coming back positive. This pandemic has hit our community hard and quick.

Bobby Shomper, Highway Administrator, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Mr. Shomper stated that he has had four positive COVID cases in his Department. The employees that are in modified quarantined are back to work wearing masks when inside the building and doing the social distancing. Mr. Shomper made a request for 24 hours of sick leave from the Clay County Sick Leave Pool for an employee in the Highway Department. Commissioner Carlson made the motion to donate 24 hours out of the Sick Leave Pool to an employee of the Highway Department. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The Board made the decision that if an employee does not feel comfortable working with the COVID pandemic and is not placed in isolation or quarantine they will need to take vacation leave. Last week the Department graded roads, mowed, removed a hedge row, and replaced a pipe.

Rocky Cramer, EMS Director, met with the Board to give the weekly report. Mr. Cramer presented to the Board the Continuity of Operations Plan for the Clay County EMS during the escalation of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Plan was reviewed by the Board and Dr. Kelley. Commissioner Mayo made the motion to adopt the Continuity of Operations Plan for the Clay County EMS during the escalation of the COVID-19 pandemic. Commissioner Carlson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The Department continues to stay busy with emergency runs and out of town transfers.

Debra Luthi, 911 Coordinator, met with the Board to report that she had applied for a donation through TC Energy (Keystone Pipeline) and had received \$13,368 to upgrade the radios in the 911 Dispatch area. The old radios are 12 years old and are needing to be updated. They are hoping to have this project completed within the next couple of weeks.

Pam Kemp, Emergency Manager, Dana Rickley, County Health Director, Dr. Timothy Penner, Public Health Director, met with the Board to give an update on the COVID-19 pandemic. Jimmy Thatcher, Mayor of Clay Center, and Christine Swaim, County Treasurer, joined the meeting. Ms. Kemp presented the Board with the new definition of a Person Under Investigation, the new numbers from Friday for positive cases in Clay County, and the number of positive cases from Friday for the State of Kansas. Ms. Rickley reported that since Friday that Clay County has an additional 43 new positive cases. This makes 106 active cases and 208 people in quarantine. The School District will be meeting today to discuss the effect that the pandemic is having on the schools. Ms. Rickley stated that she feels that it is the family

gatherings that are spreading the virus. This is a bad situation for our community and we need to take this seriously. Ms. Rickley asked the Board to consider a mask mandate, for individuals to stay away from crowds, and for people to stay home if they are sick or have symptoms. Dr. Penner reported that on Friday night CCMC had to call 15 different hospitals to find one that they could transport a patient to and it was out of state. The pandemic is becoming a very serious issue in our County. Dr. Penner stated that he can not be of good consciences and feels that he would not be doing his job as Public Health Director if he did not request the Board to consider a mask mandate. Dr. Penner also presented a Resolution to the Board that he had received from another County that had the mandate in place. Until we have a vaccine, this is all that we have to work with to try and help keep the community safe. Masks will have to be worn for 21 days before we will see any results. The Medial Community are in support of this mandate to try to control the spread of the pandemic in our County. The surrounding Counties are seeing an increase in positive cases also. This is a public health problem involving Police Officers, Fireman, Doctors, Nurses, Teachers and is closing public offices. The Board stated that they would consider the mask mandate but would like to hear what Dr. Allie Lohrmeyer has to say at the 12:00 p.m. appointment.

The Board awarded the non-profit applicants with SPARKS payment from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Dr. Allie Lohrmeyer, called the Board by phone to express her concerns on the COVID-19 pandemic. Rick James, County Attorney, Christine Swaim, County Treasurer, Pam Kemp, Emergency Manager, Dana Rickley, County Health Director, and Rocky Cramer, EMS Director were also present. Dr. Lohrmeyer stated that all of the CCMC Physicians are in favor of the mask mandate for the wearing of the masks in public. She understands that there are people supporting both sides of this request. Dr. Lohrmeyer placed a petition online for people to sign in support of wearing masks. As of today, she has signatures from 170 individuals. There is proof that the wearing of masks can help in the control of the pandemic being widespread. We need to get the attention of individuals to help control this virus and she believes that this would help keep our schools open and not wear out the medical field employees. She asked if the Board had any questions that she could answer for them. The Board stated that they had no questions and would consider her request. Mr. James stated that he felt that the Resolution was fine if they chose to adopt it with the understanding that there would be no penalty at this time for not wearing a mask. The Board stated that they hope that individuals will be respectful towards others and will wear a mask in public.

Commissioner Carlson made the motion to adopt Resolution 2020-13 mandating the wearing of a mask while out in the public. The Resolution will be published in the local newspaper and will be effective beginning at 12:01 a.m. Thursday November 12th, 2020. This mandate will be reviewed on November 30th, 2020 and a decision to remove or continue will be made at that time. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Carlson made the motion to lock the doors to all County Departments and provide services by appointments only along with the mask mandate. This means that County employees and the customers will need to wear a mask when being waited on. Commissioner Mayo seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Larry Sharp, Kcamp Insurance, met with the Board to give the annual report of Risk Management Services usage report for Clay County. Mr. Sharp also went over the Training & Tuition Reimbursements Programs for employees of the County and the Grant & Incentive Programs that are available.

Rhonda Carroll, Landfill Director, met with the Board to discuss moving an employee to a different position and train to be an operator. Ms. Carroll presented a quote from Chuck Henry Sales on the purchase of new dumpsters to rent out to individuals. She would like to purchase two 20-yard dumpsters at a cost of \$8,630 and two 30-yard dumpsters at a cost of \$9,700. After discussing the remaining budget for 2020 and the cost of the dumpster it was decided to wait until closer to the end of the year before purchasing them. The 5-year Solid Waste Plan Hearing will be held on November 23rd, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. in the County Commissioners Room at the Clay County Courthouse. This plan is in accordance with the KDHE guidelines. Anyone who wished to provide input or comments should attend this hearing.

Susan Mall, Register of Deeds, met with the Board to give an update on the office. The implementation of the remote access for abstractors to be able to do their work without coming into the office has begun. The training for the program will be held in the first part of December. The subscription cost to be able to use the remote access program will be \$25 per day or \$300 per month, plus .50 a page to print the document. The Board granted permission for Ms. Mall to see about the purchase of a laptop from Central Office Service & Supply this was approved to be paid for out of the SPARKS funds.

The Board adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

David M. Thurlow, Chairman

Attest: Kayla Wang, County Clerk
November, 16, 2020
Clay Center, Kansas